

09/889957

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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 004900-200

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
)  
Jacques BOURDON et al. ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
)  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
(Corresponds to PCT/FR00/00166 )  
)  
International Filing Date: 25 January 2000 )  
)  
For: METHOD AND INSTALLATION OR )  
SEPARATING AND PURIFYING )  
DIPHENOLS IN THE PHENOL AND )  
PHENOL DERIVATIVES INDUSTRY )

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

Kindly replace claims 1-11 and 13-20 as follows.

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1. (Amended) A process for separation and purification of a crude mixture comprising hydroquinone and resorcinol, optionally tars, and optionally catechol, in which process the crude mixture is first subjected to a series of distillation stages comprising:
- (i) optionally distilling in stage (I) [designed] to produce catechol as a distillation top product,
- (ii) obtaining the distillation bottom product from (i) or the crude mixture in the absence of stage (I) to a distillation stage (II) designed to produce, as

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